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Award winners

Jim Stewart '76

Furman University

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Award winners

Once again this spring, Furman undergraduates struck gold in national scholarship competitions.

Monica Bell, a rising senior from Anderson, S.C., was one of 64 college students across the nation to earn a Harry S Truman Scholarship, which is awarded annually to students who have excelled academically and are committed to careers in public service. The Truman Scholarship is worth \$30,000 — \$3,000 for the senior year and \$27,000 for graduate study.

Joining Bell in winning major honors were two chemistry majors, rising juniors Sarah Klapman of Hixson, Tenn., and Michelle Stewart of Atlanta, Ga. Both were among 309 sophomores and juniors nationwide selected to receive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, which are designed to encourage students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. Goldwater awards cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

A double major in political science and sociology, Bell plans to attend law school (Georgetown and Emory are the current frontrunners) and eventually work in public service law. “I don’t see myself in private practice,” she says. “I’m more interested in constitutional issues and in working with the poor and disenfranchised.” In addition, she may pursue a master’s degree in social work or another area of sociology.

She has already gained solid experience in the legal arena, having interned with The Center for Voting and Democracy in Washington, D.C., and with the Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina in her hometown. She also attended the first Democracy Summer Youth Electoral Reform Conference in Tallahassee, Fla., last summer.

Furman students earn Truman, Goldwater scholarships



Bell



Klapman



Stewart

Goldwater recipients Klapman and Stewart were both attracted to Furman by the chemistry program, and both have taken advantage of their interest in research during their Furman years.

Last summer, Klapman worked with chemistry professor Tim Hanks on the “Chameleon Fiber” project, which focused on how and why certain molecules changed color in response to external stimuli. The project has potential implications for the textile industry. This summer, her research centered on an analysis of LED displays in such items as watches or cell phones.

Klapman, who entered Furman with 36 hours of Advanced Placement credit, says she never had any doubt that she would major in chemistry. But she didn’t take her first college chemistry class until spring term of her freshman year, preferring, she says, to “take classes in other areas and satisfy some General Education credits, so that I could focus better on chemistry.” She may finish the course work in her major by the end of her junior year, she says, which would offer opportunities to take a broader array of classes her senior year and perhaps to study abroad.

Stewart hopes to earn a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. She spent last summer conducting research at Emory

University, studying the relationship between plaque (or cholesterol), which causes blood clots, and nitric oxide, which helps to prevent clots. This year she has worked as a research assistant with Moses Lee of Furman’s chemistry department, helping to develop a new class of compounds capable of reacting with specific DNA sequences.

Active in Furman’s Outdoors Club, Stewart is an avid rock climber who worked during the school year as a belayer for Furman’s new indoor climbing wall, located in the Lay Physical Activities Center. She even went so far as to build her own climbing wall in her on-campus apartment.

“It was about eight feet by eight feet — very intricately designed,” she says matter-of-factly. “We even had a crash pad and mattresses underneath.” While the wall was a source of amusement to her friends and guests, she admits that it did little to endear her to her neighbors downstairs.

Klapman and Stewart bring to 13 the number of Goldwater Scholars produced by the university. Bell is Furman’s 17th Truman Scholar.

— Jim Stewart

Furman names Riley, six others to serve on board of trustees

Richard W. Riley ’54, U.S. Secretary of Education in the Clinton administration and a former two-term governor of South Carolina, was one of seven people elected to the Furman board of trustees at the group’s spring meeting.

Riley, a Greenville resident, is a senior partner with the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. He is one of six Furman graduates among the new members, three of whom — Larry D. Estridge ’66, H. Neel Hipp ’73 and William B. Howes ’59 — have served previously as trustees.

Estridge is an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice in Greenville. Hipp is chair of the board of Liberty Life

Insurance Company in Greenville, and Howes, who lives in Flat Rock, N.C., is the retired chair and chief executive officer of Inland Container Corporation.

Joining Riley in their first terms on the board are Stanford Jennings ’84, Carl Kohrt ’65 and Kathleen Crum McKinney.

Jennings, a former running back and special teams player with the Cincinnati Bengals and Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League, lives in Atlanta, Ga., and is the Southeast regional sales manager for New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. Kohrt, formerly a leading executive with Eastman Kodak, is president and chief executive officer of Battelle, a research and development firm headquartered in

Columbus, Ohio. McKinney, a past chair of the Furman Advisory Council, is an attorney with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A., of Greenville.

Ralph Hendricks, president of Hendricks Properties of Simpsonville, S.C., and William R. Timmons, chair of Canal Insurance Company of Greenville, were named emeriti trustees.

The board also recognized the contributions of four members who completed their terms of service at the end of June: outgoing chair John C. Cothran ’54 of Greenville, Lillian Brock Flemming ’71 of Greenville, Jack Guynn of Atlanta, Ga., and James L. Hamrick ’50 of Spartanburg, S.C.